

MICROLEPIDOPTERA RECORDS
FROM SOMERSET

By R. J. HECKFORD*

I am prompted to write this as a result of reading Emmet's paper (1985) on microlepidoptera records from Somerset and noting the paucity of such records for the county during this century.

On 12th August 1974 and 30th November 1975 I noted a few species whilst travelling through Cheddar Gorge. I spent a day in the Winsford Hill area of Exmoor on 29th May 1976 and between 18th and 22nd June 1979 I was part of a Nature Conservancy Council team surveying the Somerset Levels. Otherwise I have not recorded microlepidoptera in the county.

I have listed those species which appear to be of interest. I have followed Emmet by indicating "new" county records by two asterisks and "new" vice-county records by a single asterisk. Turner (1955) did not use the vice-county system and so I have ascribed his records to vice-counties. The nomenclature follows Bradley & Fletcher (1979).

List of selected species

MICROPTERIGIDAE

Micropterix aureatella (Scopoli) VC5 Tarr Steps, Exmoor, locally common 29.v.1976. Turner, *op. cit.* gives one record from Brompton Regis (VC5) and one from Penselwood (VC6).

INCURVARIIDAE

Phylloporia bistrigella (Haworth) VC6 Canada Farm, one 20.vi.1979; Westhay, two 21.vi.1979. ("Scarce and local amongst birches", Turner).

Nematopogon metaxella (Hübner) VC6 Shapwick Heath Nature Reserve (SHNR), one 20.vi.1979. ("Very scarce in wooded areas", Turner).

PSYCHIDAE

**Luffia ferchaultella* (Stephens) VC6 Tadham Moor, cases common 21.vi.1979. Turner (under *L. lapidella*) states "Very local on lichen" and gives two records from VC5.

*67, Newnham Road, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon.

GRACILLARIIDAE

Caloptilia betulicola (Hering) VC6 SHNR, larval cones on *Betula* not uncommon 20.vi.1979. First recorded by Emmet (1973).

Parornix betulae (Stainton) VC6 SHNR, larvae not uncommon 20.vi.1979; Westhay, larvae not uncommon 21.vi.1979. Possibly the only record since *The Victoria County History* (Hudd, 1906) is that of Emmet (1967).

Phyllonorycter lantanella (Schrank) VC6 Cheddar Gorge, mines on *Viburnum lantana* 30.xi.1975. The only recent records appear to be those of Emmet (1967).

P. vimimiella (Sircom) VC6 West Sedge Moor, one 19.vi.1979. First recorded by Emmet (1985).

YPONOMEUTIDAE

***Ocnerostoma piniariella* Zeller VC6 SHNR, one 20.vi.1979.

Scythropia crataegella (Linnaeus) VC6 West Sedge Moor, several larvae 19.vi.1979. ("Very rare, or possibly no longer resident", Turner).

COLEOPHORIDAE

***Coleophora coracipennella* (Hübner) VC6 West Sedge Moor, one case on *Prunus spinosa* 19.vi.1979 which produced a male on 15.vii.1979, confirmed by dissection.

C. viminetella Zeller VC6 Westhay, one case on *Salix* sp. 21.vi.1979. ("Apparently rare", Turner). Recorded by Emmet (1985) from VC6.

C. binderella (Kollar) VC6 Westhay, a few cases on *Alnus* 21.vi.1979.

C. albidella Herrich-Schaffer VC6 Street Heath, one case 22.vi.1979. ("Appears to be very scarce", Turner). Emmet (1985) records one old case.

C. striatipennella Tengstrom VC6 SHNR, one 20.vi.1979. Apparently not recorded since Hudd (1906).

***C. murinipennella* (Duponchel) VC6 Canada Farm, one 20.vi.1979, confirmed by dissection.

***C. caespitiella* Zeller VC6 SHNR, one 20.vi.1979, confirmed by dissection.

ELACHISTIDAE

***Elachista poae* Stainton VC6 Westhay, one pupa 21.vi.1979, emerged 27.vi.1979.

GELECHIIDAE

Monochroa tenebrella (Hübner) VC6 SHNR, several 20.vi. 1979. Turner states "Very local amongst sheep's sorrel; sometimes common on the Turf Moors", giving only this locality.

***Syncopacma larseniella* (Gozmany) VC6 SHNR, two larvae on *Lotus uliginosus* 20.vi.1979, emerged 10.vii.1979, confirmed by dissection. Turner does not list this species; however, his records of *Stomopteryx vorticella* (Scopoli) (now *Syncopacma cinctella* (Clerck)) may refer wholly or in part to this species as the two have been confused.

COCHYLIDAE

Stenodes straminea (Haworth) VC6 West Sedge Moor, one 19.vi. 1979. ("Rather scarce and local where lesser knapweed flourishes", Turner).

TORTRICIDAE

**Clepsis senecionana* (Hübner) VC5 Winsford Hill, Exmoor, one 29.v.1976. ("Very scarce and local on heaths and moors", Turner). *C. spectrana* (Treitschke) VC6 North Moor, larvae locally common 18.vi.1979; West Sedge Moor, larvae locally common; 19.vi.1979; SHNR, larvae locally common 20.vi.1979. Adults subsequently bred from all three localities. ("Rather scarce and local", Turner). Emmet (1985) records one adult.

Acleris aspersana (Hübner) VC6 West Sedge Moor, larvae locally common on *Filipendula* 19.vi.1979, emerged vii.1979. ("Generally uncommon but it is widespread. . . Shapwick, common", Turner). Emmet (1967) confirmed that it was common at Shapwick.

Acleris notana (Donovan) VC6 Westhay, one larva on *Betula* 21.vi.1979, emerged 10.vii.1979. ("Rather uncommon", Turner). Emmet (1985) recorded larvae from VC5 and VC6.

Endothenia gentianaeanana (Hübner) VC6 West Sedge Moor, larvae in *Dipsacus fullonum* 19.vi.1979, emerged 26.vi. to 18.vii.1979. ("Very local", Turner). Emmet (1985) records it from VC5.

Ancylis upupana (Treitschke) VC6 Canada Farm, one 20.vi.1979. Turner gives only one record, from Penselwood (VC6).

Epinotia sordidana (Hübner) VC6 SHNR, larvae common 20.vi.1979; Canada Farm, a few larvae 20.vi.1979; Street Heath, a few larvae 22.vi.1979. ("Scarce and local on alder", Turner).

Dichrorampha plumbagana (Treitschke) VC6 SHNR, one 20.vi. 1979. ("Very local", Turner). Emmet (1967) records it as common at Berrow and on the Bristol bank of the Avon.

D. sequana (Hübner) VC6 North Moor, locally very common 18.

vi.1979; SHNR, a few 20.vi.1979; Westhay, a few 21.vi.1979. ("Local and uncommon amongst tansy and yarrow", Turner).

PYRALIDAE

Oncocera semirubella (Scopoli) VC6 Cheddar Gorge, one 12.viii.1974. Turner states "Scarce and local on downs and hillsides" and gives only four records, all from VC6.

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FOODPLANTS OF CACOECIMORPHA PRONUBANA HUBN. (TORTRICIDAE) — Whilst walking along the promenade at Eastbourne in the autumn of 1985 I took a few larval spinings on *Tamarix* spp. (Tamarisk) these, not unsurprisingly, turned out to be the above mentioned species. Mr. A. Foster informs me that he has recently found the species in Peterborough feeding on *Conyza canadensis* (L.) (Canadian Fleabane), whilst Mr. J. Riggall found the species (det. A. Forster) in London eating *Vitis vinifera* L. (Grapevine, apparently of the red variety!)

Finding on these widely separated plants prompts the question — Is there any plant this species will not eat? — M. PARSONS, The Forge, Russells Green, Ninfield, nr. Battle, East Sussex.